

# JEWISH AGRICULTURAL COLONIZATION IN THE UKRAINE

*Chaim Freedman*

2017

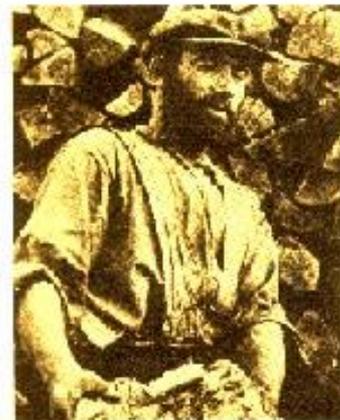
*Site:*

*[https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Colonies\\_of\\_Ukraine](https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Colonies_of_Ukraine)*



# The Jewish Agricultural Experience in the Diaspora

Beth Haeftsohn  
The Nahum Goldmann Museum  
of the Jewish Diaspora



The study of Jewish agricultural settlement in an organized form in the European diaspora contributes to an understanding of the endeavors of Jews to improve their social and economic situation under the restrictive and oppressive Tsarist regime.

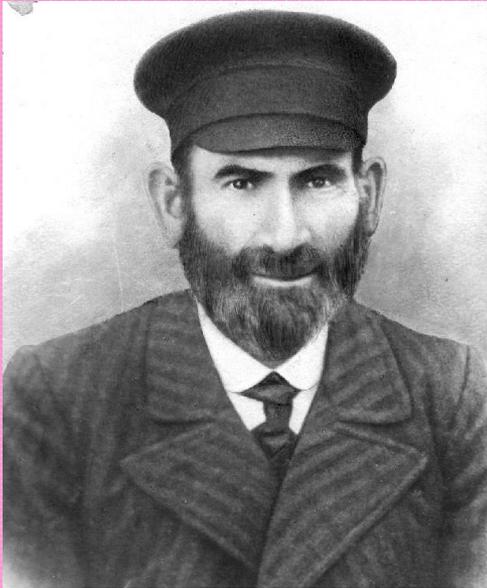
The Jewish farmers' efforts were a unique episode in the struggle for Jewish survival in the Diaspora, whilst retaining Jewish values and life style. This phenomenon puts into perspective the positive character of Jewish activities in the Diaspora, often besmirched and denigrated.

Childhood  
memories  
and connections  
to the colonies

With my grandfather Zalmen Komesaroff,  
Melbourne, Australia, c.1952



My grandparents' dining room  
photos of great-grandparents Menakhem-Mendel and  
Beila-Reeva Komisaruk



# Menakhem-Mendel Komisaruk and Family, Grafskoy Ukraine, 1913



**Family of Shlomo-Zalmen and Chana-Reizel Komisaruk  
Berdyansk c.1913**



Tybel (Tessie) Freedman, nee Komesaroff / Komisaruk  
Ancestry from Colonist Families.

		<u>Shlomo Zalmen Komisaruk</u> Born 1798 Rassein, Lithuania Died 1853
	<u>Pinkhas Komisaruk</u> Born 1830 Rassein, Lithuania Died 1897 Graftskoy	<u>Graftskoy, Yek. Russia</u> <u>Yokhved Fridgut</u> Born 1798 Rassein, Lithuania Died, Graftskoy, Yek. Russia
	<u>Menakhem Mendel Komisaruk</u> Born 1864 Graftskoy, Yek. Russia Died 1919 Graftskoy, Yek. Russia	<u>Meir (Markus) Levin</u> Born 1780 Salant, Lithuania Died 1850 Nechaevka, Ukraine <u>Rakhel ?</u>
<u>Shlomo-Zalman Komisaruk/Komesaroff/Kaye</u> Born 1886 Graftskoy, Yek. Russia Marr 1907 Graftskoy, Yek. Russia Died 1958 Melbourne, Vic. Australia	<u>Khaya-Sarah Levin</u> Born 1834 Salant, Lithuania Died 1873 Graftskoy	<u>Saadiah Meir Pogorelsky</u> Born 1810 Nezhin, Ukraine Died 1879 Kobilnye, Ukraine <u>Bassie</u>
	<u>Baila-Reeva Pogorelske</u> Born Kobilnye, Ukraine Died 1935 Melbourne, Vic. Australia	<u>Zev (Velvel) Pogorelsky</u> Born 1835 Nezhin, Ukraine Died 1876 Kobilnye, Ukraine
	<u>Benjamin Gordon</u> Born 1810 Salant, Lithuania Died 1850 Nechaevka, Ukraine	<u>Khaya Sarah Gordon</u> Born Salant, Lithuania Died 1912 Tsarakonstantinovka, Ukraine
<u>Tybel (Tessie) Komisaruk/Komesaroff/Kaye</u> Born 1909 Berdiansk, Ukraine Died 1996 Melbourne, Vic. Australia Marr. 1937 <u>John.R.Freedman</u> 1910-1999	<u>Shlomo Zalmen Komisaruk</u> Born 1798 Rassein, Lithuania Died 1853 Graftskoy, Yek. Russia <u>Yokhved Fridgut</u> Born 1798	<u>Pinkhas Komisaruk</u> Born 1830 Rassein, Lithuania Died 1897 Graftskoy, Yek. Russia
	<u>Meir Komisaruk</u> Born 1858 Graftskoy, Yek. Russia Died 1907 Andreyevka, Tav. Ukraine	<u>Meir (Markus) Levin</u> Born 1780 Salant, Lithuania Died 1850 Nechaevka, Ukraine <u>Rakhel ?</u>
<u>Khana-Reizel Komisaruk/Komesaroff</u> Born 1887 Andreyevka, Tav. Ukraine Died 1955 Melbourne, Vic. Australia	<u>Khaya-Sarah Levin</u> Born 1834 Salant, Lithuania Died 1873 Graftskoy, Yek. Russia	<u>David Zhmuydya (Zhmood)</u> Born 1818 Lutzin (Ludza) Latvia Died 1880 Andreyevka, Tav. Ukraine <u>Khana-Reizel Komisaruk</u> Born 1820 Rassein, Lithuania Died 1885 Andreyevka, Tav. Ukraine <u>Mordekhai (Marek) Yovel</u> Born 1788 Plunge, Lithuania Died 1831 Plunge, Lithuania <u>Ita</u> Born 1784 Plunge, Lithuania
	<u>Koppel Zhmood</u> Born 1839 Lutzin (Ludza), Latvia Died 1900 Andreyevka, Tav. Ukraine	<u>Deverah Yovel</u> Born 1830 Plunge, Lithuania Died 1898 Andreyevka, Tav. Ukraine
	<u>Tybel Zmood</u> Born 1866 Novozlatopol, Yek. Russia Died 1906 Andreyevka, Tav. Ukraine	

1. Yosef Halevy *pre-surname* c.1695
2. Meir c.1720 m: Beyla
3. David *Komisaruk* c.1747 m: Khana
4. Rabbi Dov-Ber (Berel) 1776-1843  
m: Ester grand-daughter of *Vilna Gaon* (1720-1797)
5. Rabbi Shlomo-Zalmen 1798-1853 m: Yokhved
6. Rabbi Pinkhas 1830/32 -1897 m: Khaya-Sarah *Levin*
7. Menakhem-Mendel 1864-1919 m: Beila-Reeva *Pogorelsky*
8. Shlomo-Zalmen Komesaroff 1886-1958 m:Khana-Reizel *Kom.*
9. Tybel (Tessie) 1909-1996 m: Yaakov-Reuven  
(John) *Freedman*  
1910-1999
10. Khaim Koppel (Keith)b 1947 m: Sheindel (Jane) *Berliner*

One item held the key to revealing the scenario of the colonies. This was my *grandfather's personal stamp* in a set of old Hebrew books.





Зельмонъ Менделевичъ

КОМИССАРОВЪ

КОЛ. ГРАДСКОЙ ЕПАРХ. ГУБ.



*“Zelman Mendelevitch Komisarov,  
Kol. Grafskoy Ekāt. Gub.”*

My mother explained:

**Grafskoy** was where her father was born.

**Ekāt.** stood for Ekaterinoslav, the province.

**Kol.** stood for “Kolonya” or colony.

In the late 18th century territories in south-east Ukraine came under the control of the Russian Tsarist regime.

This area was known as **Novorussia**, consisting of three Guberniyas

**Kherson**

**Yekaterinoslav**

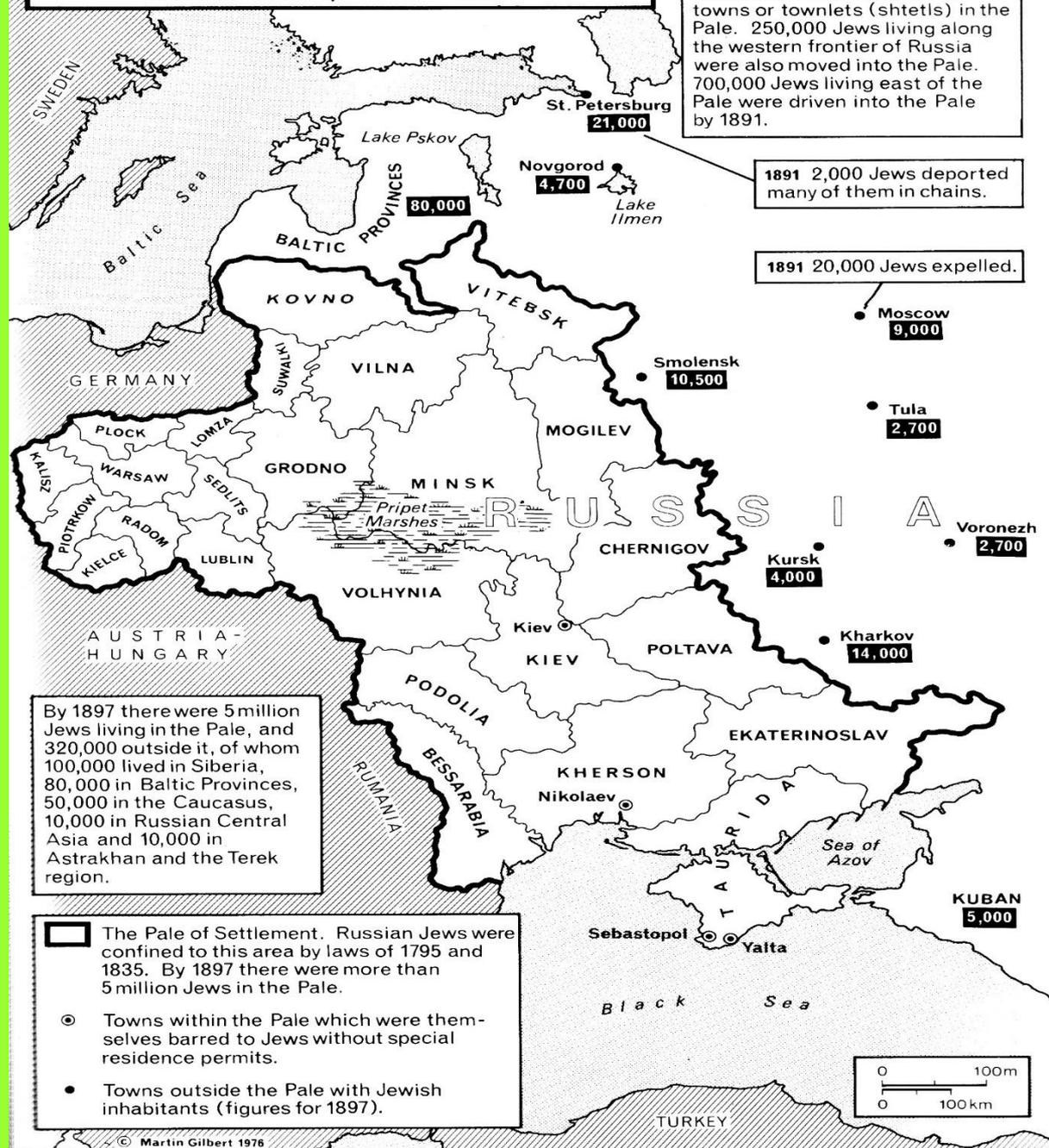
**Tavritch**

# THE JEWISH PALE OF SETTLEMENT IN RUSSIA, 1835 - 1917

In 1882 500,000 Jews living in rural areas of the Pale were forced to leave their homes and live in towns or townlets (shtetls) in the Pale. 250,000 Jews living along the western frontier of Russia were also moved into the Pale. 700,000 Jews living east of the Pale were driven into the Pale by 1891.

1891 2,000 Jews deported many of them in chains.

1891 20,000 Jews expelled.



By 1897 there were 5 million Jews living in the Pale, and 320,000 outside it, of whom 100,000 lived in Siberia, 80,000 in Baltic Provinces, 50,000 in the Caucasus, 10,000 in Russian Central Asia and 10,000 in Astrakhan and the Terek region.

# Origin of Settlers

<u>Town of Origin</u>	<u>Number of Families</u>
• Mogilev & Orsha	83
• Lutzin	160
• Poloksk	1
• Rassein	11
• Salant	<u>30</u>
• <b>TOTAL</b>	<u><b>285</b></u>

# Lutzin (now Ludza, Latvia) major community of settler origins

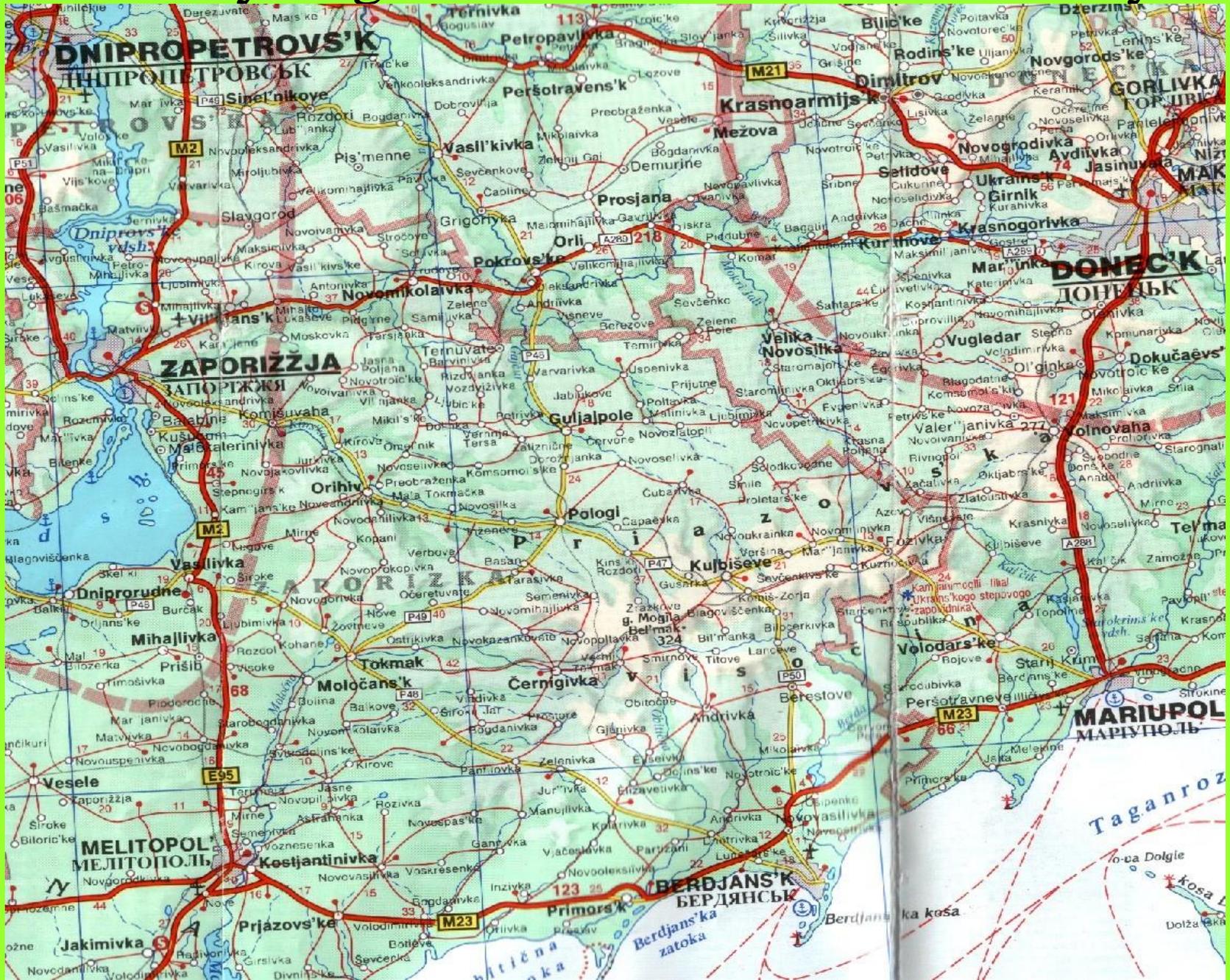


# Lithuanian Origins - Rassein

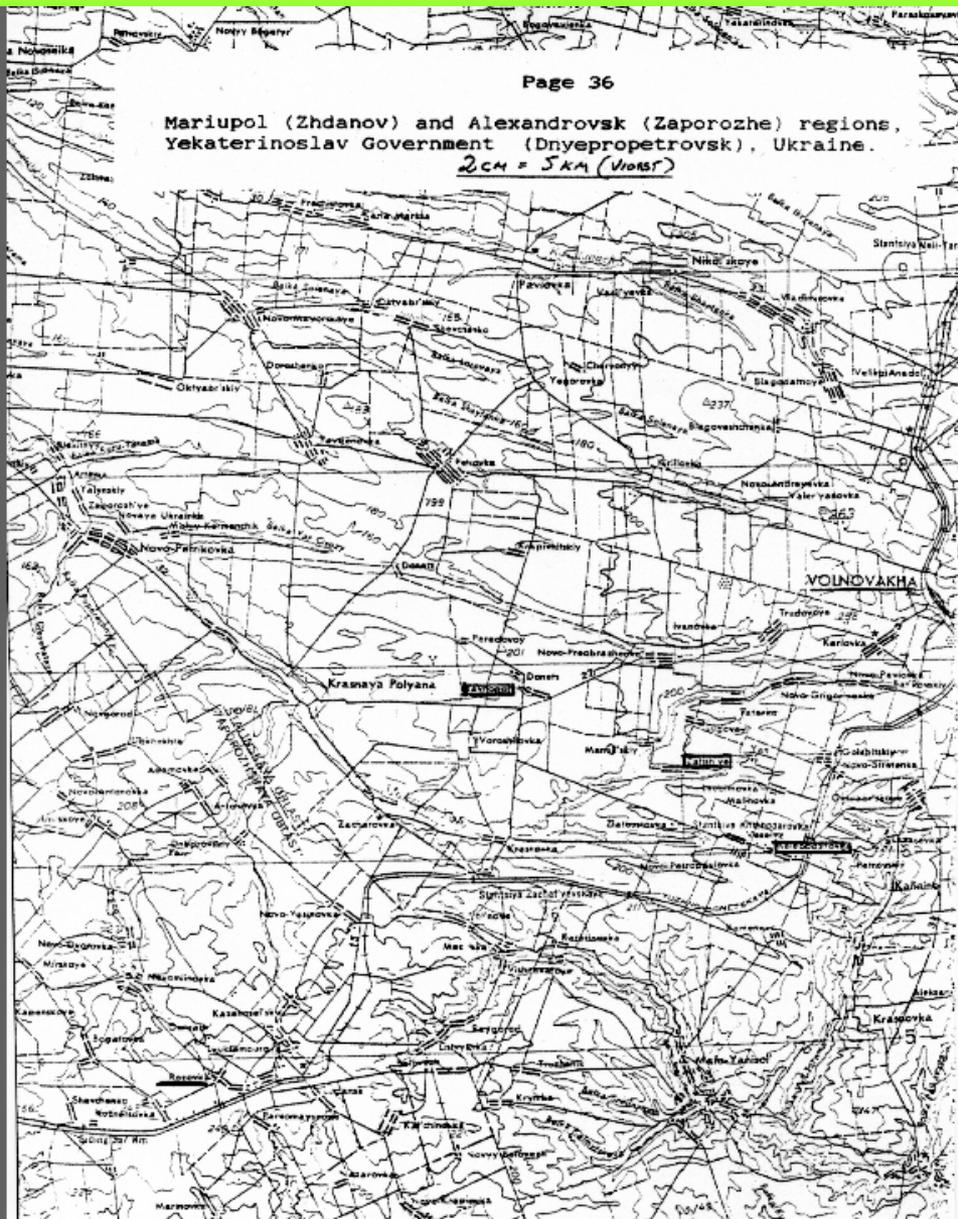
הרב המאורז מ"ה פנחס קאמיסער מעיר ראסין, שהיה אב"ד וש"ס  
בגראפסקאי מושבה יהודית בפלך יקאטערינאסלאוו, נפטר בשנת תרנ"ז  
כ"ז אדר בן ס"ז שנה, בן המופלג מ"ה שלמה זלמן מעיר ראסין שנפטר  
בשנת תרי"ח, ור"י שלמה זלמן היה חתן של הרב הגדול המקובל מ"ה מגרם  
מענדיל מראסין שהיה ש"ס דק"ק גורמענאלי ואח"כ עזב את מלאכת הש"ס  
וישב ללמוד בעירונו בביהמ"ד הג' כ"י שנה עד יומו האחרון ונפטר בשנת תקצ"ו  
(שנ"כ על ביה"ק דישן):

- The Rabbi, Light of the Exile, our teacher Pinkhas Komisar, from the city of Rassein, who was Av Din, and Shokhet and examiner in Grafskoy, a Jewish colony in the district of Yekaterinoslav, passed away in the year 5657 [1897], 27<sup>th</sup> Adar, aged 67, the son of the outstanding one, our teacher the Rabbi Shlomo-Zalmen from the city of Rassein, who passed away in the year 5608 [1848]. And Reb Shlomo-Zalmen was the son-in-law of the great rabbi, the Kabbalist, our teacher the Rabbi Menakhem-Mendel from Rassein, who was Shokhet and examiner in the holy community of Girtegola and afterwards abandoned the labour of slaughtering and settled in our city to study in the Great Beit Hamidrash for 20 years until his last day, and passed away in the year 5596 [1835/6], and his honoured resting place is in the old cemetery.*

# Colony Region – Yekaterinoslav Guberniya



# Aleksandrovsk (Zaporozhe) and Mariupol Uyezds

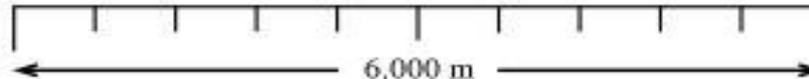


# Mariupol Uyezd Colonies, aerial photograph 1943

597 Photo



NARA photo RG 373 GX 13115 (SK)-2  
Exp 597, Sept 8, 1943



Scale = 1:60,000 1 cm = 600 m

# Grafskoy: aerial photograph 1943



# Grafskoy c.1913 – plan from memory of relatives



# Satellite view



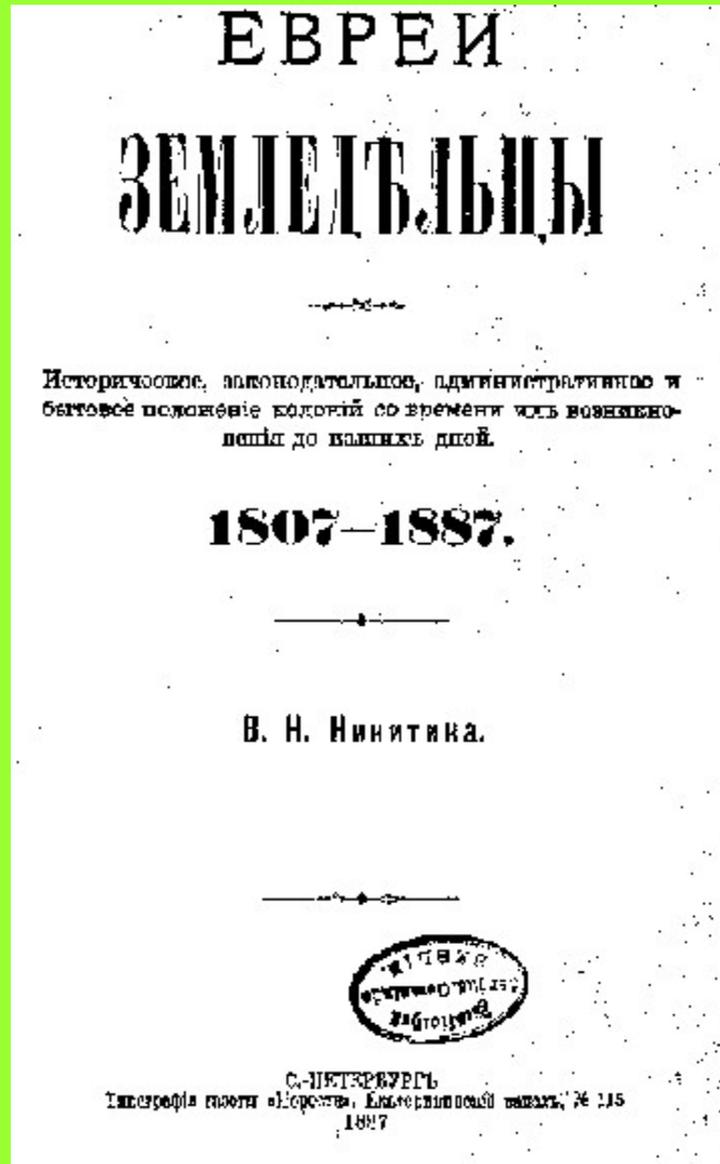


# Yekaterinoslav Colonies

Official number	Official name	Popular name/New *	Pop. 1894
1	Novozlatopol	Pervernumer	778
2	Vesselaya	Hoopolov/Goopolov	399
3	Krasnoselka	Driternumer	589
4	Mezherich	Ferternumer	515
5	Trudoliubovka	Engels	485
6	Nechaevka	Peness/Gorki *	353
7	Grafskoy	Proletarsky *	346
8	Priyutnaya	Takni	274

9	Roskoshnaya	Halushkes/Galushkes	292
10	Bogodarovka	Kovilevsk/ Novodarovka *	511
11	Gorkaya	Nazarevich	403
12	Zelenoepole	Myadler	712
13	Nadezhnaya	Der Vilner	651
14	Kobilnye	Sladkovodnaya	335
15	Zatishe	Bekhers	533
16	Rovnopol	Lates	475
17	Khlebodarovka	Suntsove	198
Total			7849

**"Yevrei Zyemlyedeltsi 1807-1887" (Jewish Agriculturalists) by Viktor N. Nikitin (Petersburg 1887).**



*An inspector of forests, Major-General Tagaychinov, came across a party which was traveling to the Government of Yekaterinoslav comprising eleven families. He found "that they were unaccustomed to continuous walking, many were feeble in the feet. For 29 young children, 3 nursing women and 3 pregnant women there were available only 9 horses and carts which had to carry all their belongings as well." He provided three more wagons at his own expense."*

# Russian Sources: statistics

НАИМЕНОВАНИЕ КОЛОНІИ.	Число жителей.	Число душъ.										Разныя.		
		Всѣмъ.		Мужск.		Женск.		Рабо-щинъ.		Во вл. частяхъ.		1-е.	2-е.	3-е.
		Мужск.	Женск.	Мужск.	Женск.	Мужск.	Женск.	Мужск.	Женск.	Мужск.	Женск.			
1 Нов. Златополь.	100	210	475	538	462	570	445	547	285	225	160	20	50	30
2 Вассага . . . . .	42	222	176	217	177	214	159	123	55	89	78	4	26	12
3 Красноземля . . . . .	50	207	276	294	241	265	225	163	141	157	114	11	29	10
4 Мемпрѣчъ . . . . .	50	258	231	247	224	250	225	164	155	86	90	17	30	15
5 Трудовлюбива . . . . .	44	249	196	231	181	240	196	122	33	152	103	7	19	12
6 Нововиза . . . . .	22	103	128	125	163	120	152	102	25	73	77	1	18	10
7 Колонія № 7 . . . . .	22	148	100	145	112	127	100	82	56	32	55	7	17	4
Итого . . . . .	340	1974	1602	1907	1573	1896	1533	1126	670	777	677	68	185	100

НАИМЕНОВАНИЕ КОЛОНІИ.	Число жителей.	Землеобрабатывающ. орудія.							Число десятковъ обработаннаго клѣса.				
		Всѣмъ.							Въ 1917 г.		Въ 1918 г.		
		Плосцекъ.	Летосѣкъ.	Плосцекъ.	Сорокъ.	Бочъ.	Деревяныя лопаты.	Иныя.	Требель.	Сѣнокосы.	Землечы.	Сѣнокосы.	Землечы.
1 Нов. Златополь.	100	85	15	75	50	300	133	133	203	177 $\frac{1}{2}$	225 $\frac{1}{2}$	177 $\frac{1}{2}$	427
2 Вассага . . . . .	42	14	6	31	21	123	71	64	72	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	40	71	123
3 Красноземля . . . . .	60	21	8	43	25	142	92	122	112	84	115	89	264
4 Мемпрѣчъ . . . . .	50	18	10	43	25	150	83	68	68	89	120	89	227
5 Трудовлюбива . . . . .	44	15	2	42	25	102	35	41	45	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	24	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	224
6 Нововиза . . . . .	22	11	6	34	11	75	21	39	47	41	57	41	128
7 Колонія № 7 . . . . .	22	13	5	31	25	56	28	25	30	—	—	—	—
Итого . . . . .	346	130	50	300	187	671	474	632	747	521 $\frac{1}{2}$	531 $\frac{1}{2}$	523	1529

# Russian statistics: translation

## COMMUNITY NUMBERS

COLONY	SOULS BY SEX				FAMILIES 1849
	1848 MALE	FEMALE	1849 MALE	FEMALE	
Novozlatopol	604	414	551	453	100
Veselaya	198	115	195	156	41
Krasnoselka	225	213	283	204	51
Mezhirech	208	183	255	234	51
Trudoliubovka	179	148	226	189	30
Nechaevka	86	81	133	102	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1350</b>	<b>1154</b>	<b>1643</b>	<b>1400</b>	<b>289</b>

## NUMBER OF SOULS BETWEEN 1847-1852

COLONY	FAM.	GENERAL		REVISED		SOLVENT		WORKERS		NON-WORK.		CLASS.FAM		
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	1	2	3
Novozlatopol	100	610	475	586	462	570	445	345	285	226	160	20	50	30
Veselaya	42	222	176	213	170	214	163	125	85	89	79	4	25	13
Krasnoselka	50	307	256	294	246	305	255	168	141	137	114	11	29	10
Mezhirech	50	259	233	247	224	250	225	164	135	86	90	5	30	15
Trudoliubovka	44	240	196	233	193	240	196	138	93	102	103	7	19	18
Nechaevka	32	193	168	188	166	180	152	104	75	76	77	4	18	10
Colony No.7 *	28	143	105	146	112	137	100	82	56	62	55	7	17	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>1974</b>	<b>1609</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>1898</b>	<b>1536</b>	<b>1126</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Grafskoy

a= 1907 b- 1873

## STOCKRAISING cattle

COLONY	INTRODUCED 1847	YIELD 1848	YIELD 1849	YIELD 1850	YIELD 1851	TOTAL INTRO. 1847	YIELD
Veselaya	91	73	51	9	7	91	140
Krasnoselka	117	129	70	5	49	117	253
Mezhirech	114	124	87	10	16	114	217
Trudoliubovka	84	149	36			84	186
Nechaevka	53	57	18	22	14	53	111
Colony No.7 *	-	-	61	4	49	-	114
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>1523</b>

\* Grafskoy

## Colony Survey 1890, Uleinikov

Grafskoy 1890 Komisaruk family

1. #15

2. Komisaruk Pinkhas Zelmanovich.

The elder has additionally two sons, who are not living in the colony;  
one daughter is married;  
one of sons has three boys.

5-7. Government provided house covered with thatch (bad state). Near it built a new house with two rooms also covered with thatch (Good state).

Stable also covered with thatch

8. two ploughs, one and two furrow.

One mangle.

One harrow.

Two Britchka (carts).

9. five horses

Three cows.

One calf.

10. Except 1/3\* of land, also rents 17 desyatins. 2/3 of land owned by older brothers.

11. Himself

12. Good

# Personal Documents



Hamelitz 1897; March 12 (24)

*Grafskoy (a Jewish colony in the Government of Yekaterinoslav).*

*The 27th day of Adar I was for us a day of mourning and grief, because during it passed away to his eternal like in the sixty-seventh year of his life, the Rabbi, the Gaon, Av Din of this place, our Rabbi Pinkhas Komisarov, who officiated to the glory of our colony as rabbi and Shuv (# Skokhet and examiner of meat) for more than thirty years. Great honor was shown him on his death; all the rabbis of the surrounding colonies gathered, came to pay him the last honor and eulogized him according to the Halakha (# law). He was great in Torah and the Fear of Heaven, and in peace and righteousness he walked with his brethren the farmers. Peace be unto his dust, and may his soul be bound up in the bond of everlasting life. -Kalman Bruser*



# My mother's birth certificate, Berdyansk 1909



## Свидѣтельство.

Дано сіе въ томъ, что въ метрической книгѣ о *бердянскихъ*  
евреяхъ по г. *Бердянску* за 1909 года подл. № *16*, записанъ  
ахтъ слѣдующаго содержанія.

Тысяча *девятисотъ* *девятнацати* года, *Маріа*  
*девятисотъ* *девятнацати* гда, у *Комесаровича*  
*Колесинъ Графскаго*, *Святославовича*  
*Губ. Землемана Менделова* *Колесарука*  
и сына его *Хана* въ *Бердянскомъ*  
*Масоринъ Губ. родильномъ домѣ*, *Котуринъ*  
*дѣлѣ* *мать*, *Мелуѣ*.

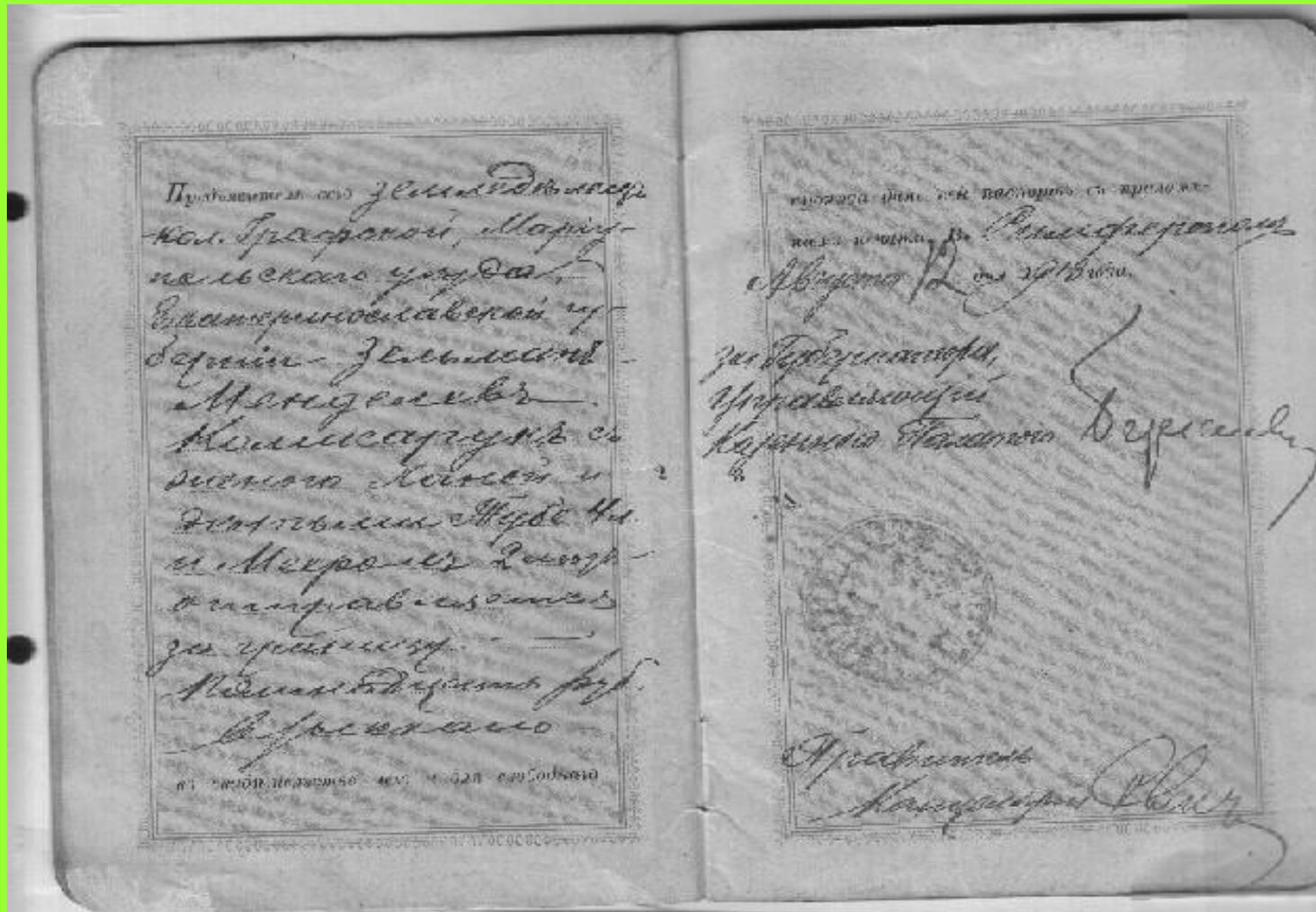
Въ чемъ подписью съ приложеніемъ казенной печати удостоверяю  
г. *Ного* № *12* дня 1913 года.

*И. Я. Бердянский* *Губ. Землеманъ* *Сев. вика*  
НОГАЙСКІЙ РАВВИНЪ *На Куринскій дѣлѣ*

№ 546-13  


6. Extract of birth certificate (1909) of 'TAUBE' (TYBEL), daughter of ZALMEN and KHANA-REIZEL Komesaroff. Falsely records the birthplace as Graftskoy, rather than Berdyansk, due to the need to maintain a facade that ZALMEN still worked as a farmer on Graftskoy. Issued by the official rabbin of Nogaïsk near Berdyansk.

# My grandparents' passport Russia 1913



7. Passport 'Agricultural colony Grafskoy, Mariupol district, Yekaterinoslav Government, Zalman Mendelev Komisaruk, his wife Khans children Tooba 4 years, and Meerom 2 years.' Issued Simferopol, August 12, 1913.

# Great-Grandmother Beila-Reeva Komisaruk's Visa, Moscow 1922

Nr. reg. wizy 4694.

2. 12. 21.  
Ryga, dnia 28 listopada 1921.

Z a s w i a d c z e n i e. fotografia.

Konsulat Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej na Lotwę w Rydze  
W imieniu moim udzielił zezwolenia na przejazd  
przez Czew-Chojnicę w kierunku przystanku przywilejowanego oka-  
zówkowi paszportu N 185 p. Beili  
Komisaruk z rodziną

Zaswiadczenie niniejsze ważne do dnia 10 grudnia 1921  
na przejazd do Niemiec

Pobrano 330 r.f.  
Nr. kwitu 2789

Konsul Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej  
A. J. Lubski

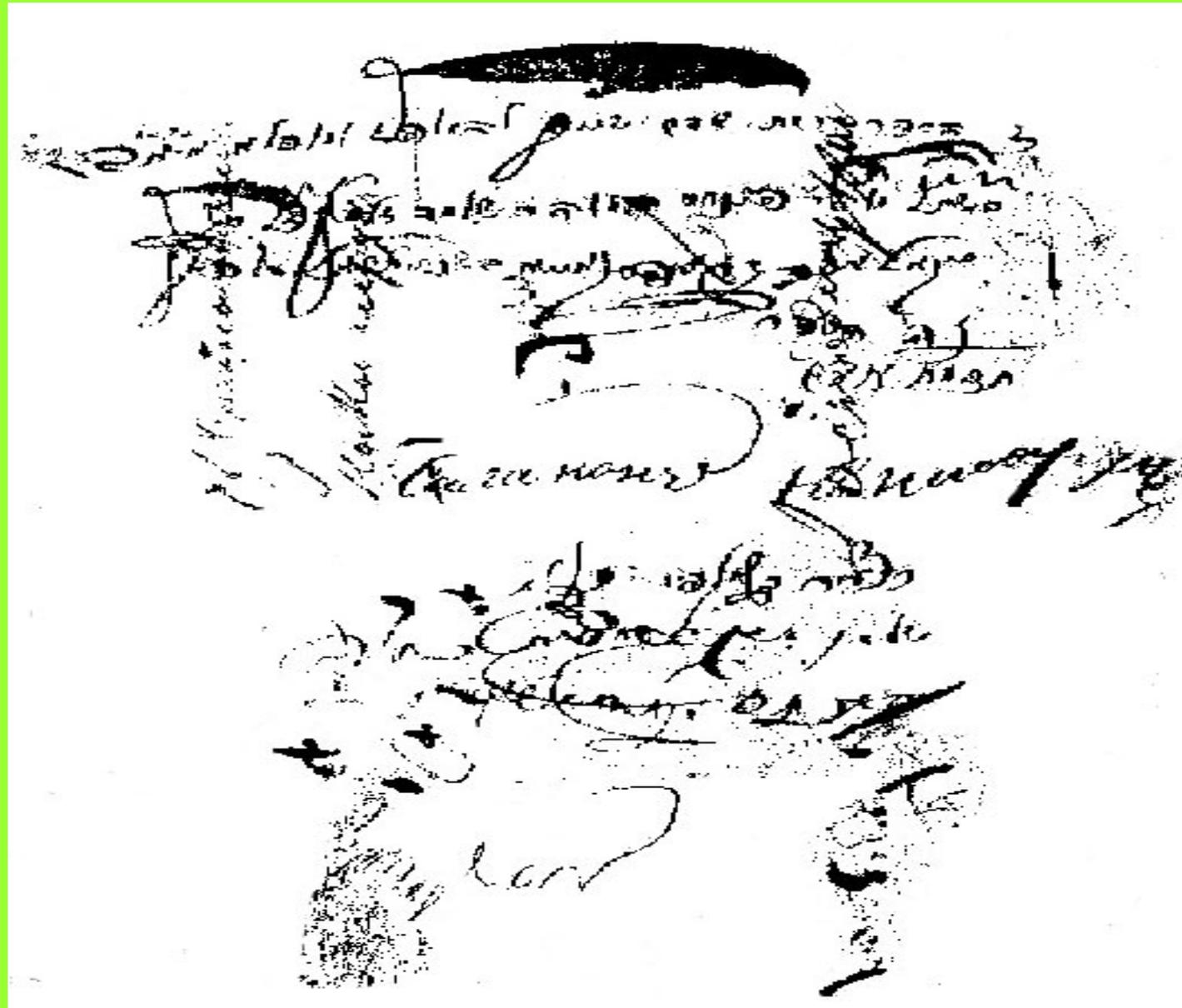


Medal awarded to Velvel Komisaruk c.1885;  
his widow Feigel



Inscriptions in Old  
Family Hebrew  
Books

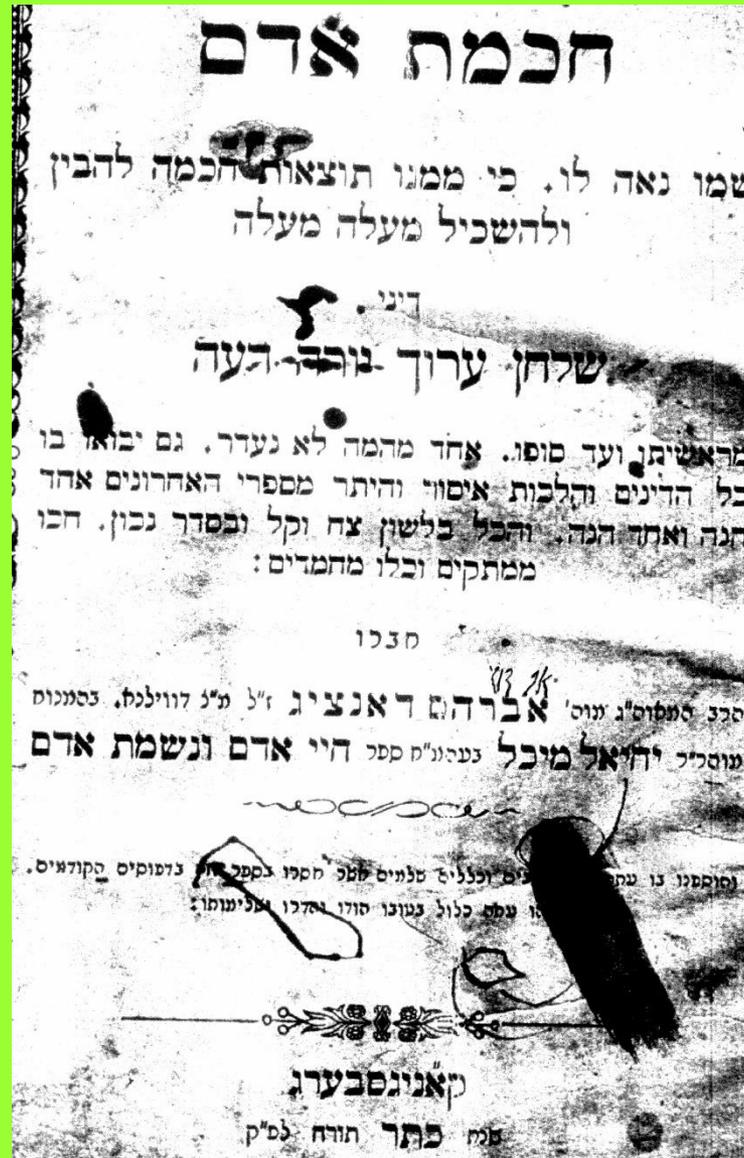
# “Khokhmat Adam” c.1840 Lithuania



The book belonged to Rabbi Pinkhas Komisaruk (1830-1897)

"This book Khokhmat Adam belonged to the distinguished and outstanding one, my master my father, our teacher the Rabbi Pinkhas, son of our teacher the Rabbi Shlomo Zalmen of blessed and righteous memory, Segal, of Kolonya Graftskoy, in the year 5606 [1846 ]."

# Relationship with the Vilna Gaon



**"Khokhmat Adam" by Avraham Danzig of Vilna.**

**His son Yitskhak married Gittel the sister of Ester (granddaughters of the Vilna Gaon) who married Rabbi Berel Davidovitch Komisaruk (1776-1843) of Girtegola and Rassein, Lithuania, the father of Rabbi Shlomo Zalmen Komisaruk of Graftskoy (1798-1853)**



***“Solomon Komisaruk  
The youngster amongst  
the princes of Menashe [a  
Biblical term of humility]  
Shlomo Zalmen son of our  
teacher the Rabbi Pinkhas  
Komisaruk”.***

**Rabbi Shlomo-Zalmen  
Komisaruk (1855-1920  
Vasilkovka, Ukraine)**

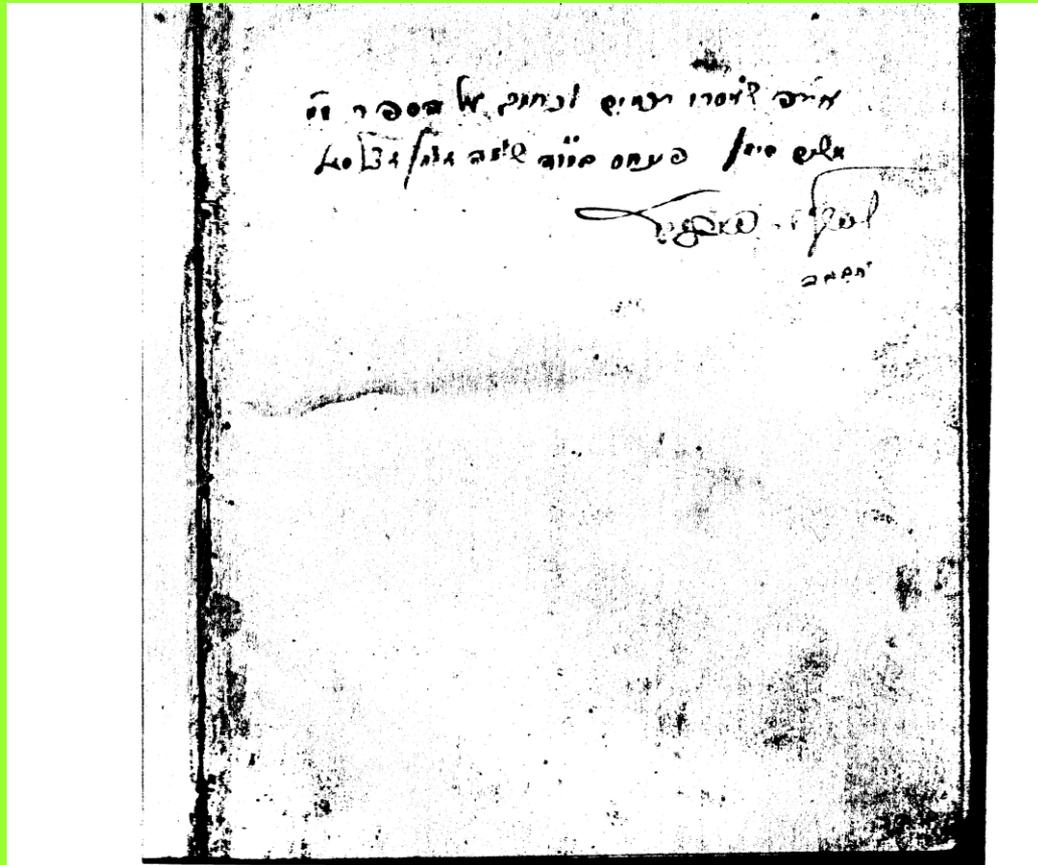
# Vasilkovka synagogue 1999



# Rabbi Pinkhas Komisaruk

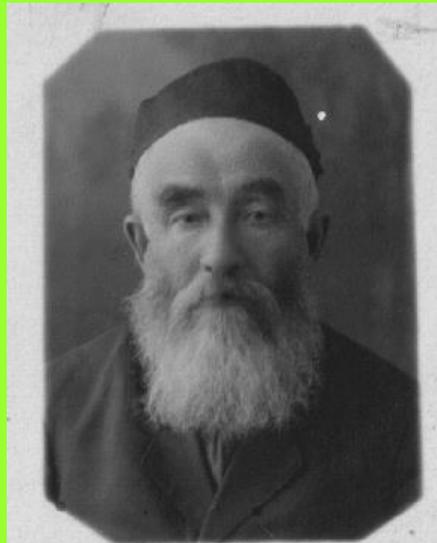
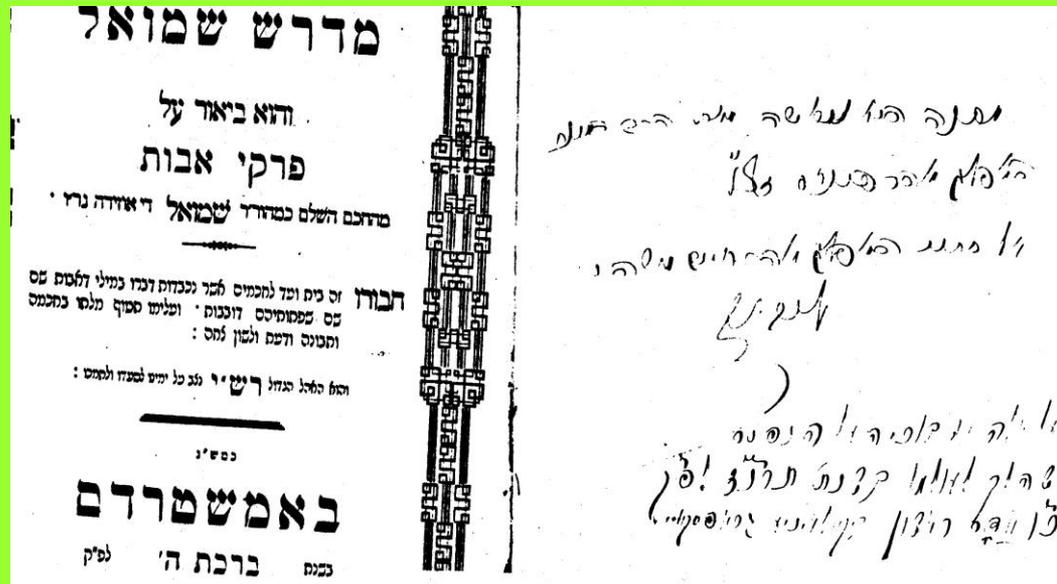
## 1830-1897 Grafskoy

### Signature in "Matok Midvash" 1884



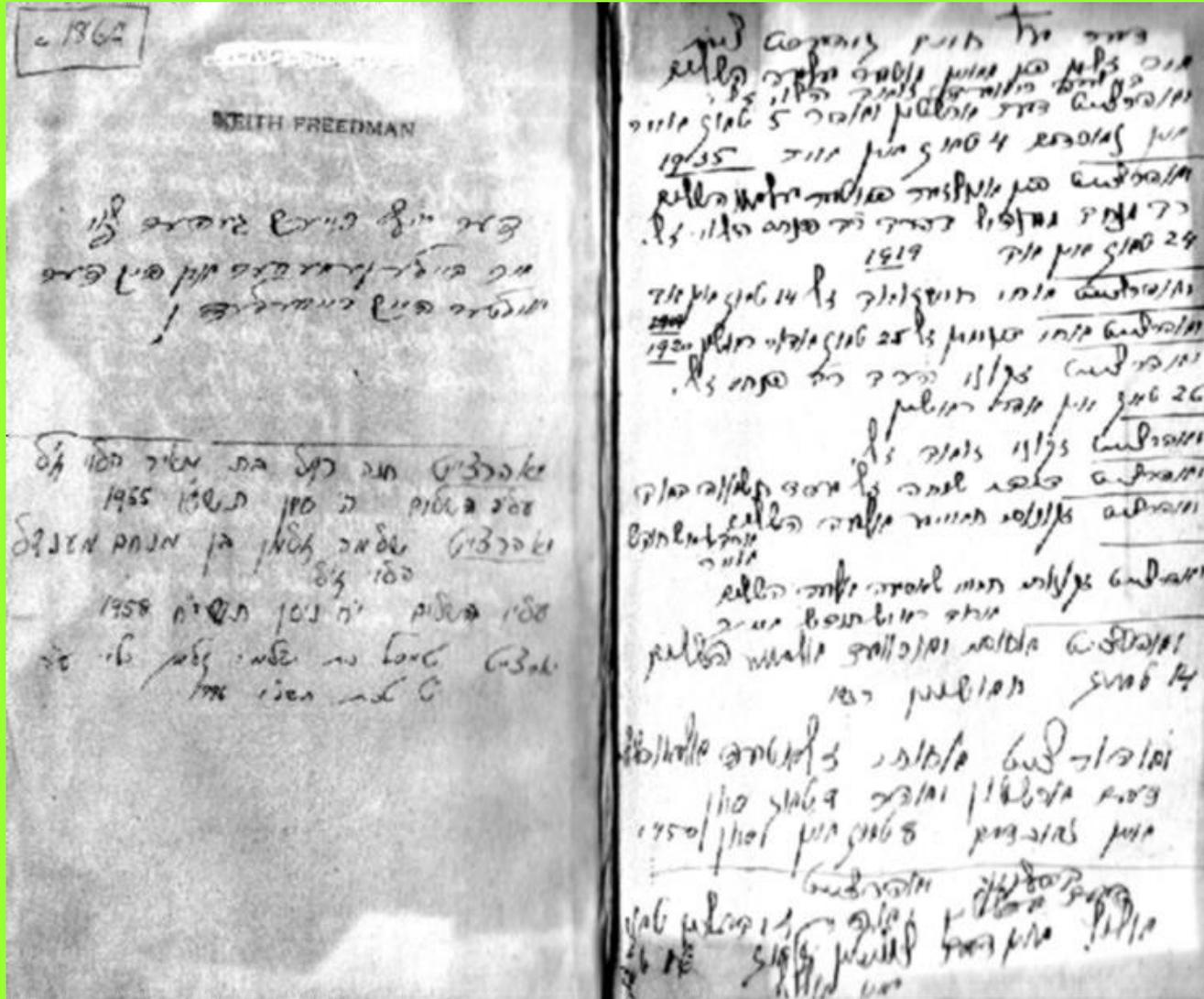
3. 'Matok Midvash' Inscription reads: "Even though the sages forbade writing any sign on the book Matok Midvash, Pinkhas the son of our teacher the rabbi Shlomo-Zalmen, of righteous and blessed memory, Segal. Komesaroff 5644 (1884)."

# Present from Rabbi Pinkhas Komisaruk to his son-in-law Rabbi Khaim Moshe Luban (1868-1924 Seattle)



# Family Yahrtzeits

written by Zalmen Komesaroff, Melbourne



# Zmood family descent in book dating from 1799

12 14 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200

201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300

301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400

401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500

501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600

601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700

701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800

801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900

901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000

Colony, Photos,  
Houses, Relatives

# Synagogue (current photo)



# Proletarsky/Grafskoy 1999 Stavok (reservoir) and forest



# Plantazh (forest) photo site; 1999



# **Grafskoy, c.1924, abandoned house and yard of Mendel Komisaruk**



# Komisaruk “estate” 1999



# Grafskoy 1913, Mendel Komisaruk (1864-1919) and his makeshift tombstone



Proletarsky/ Grafskoy cemetery site  
1999; destroyed 1950; now garage



**Grafskoy c.1908 House and yard of Berel Komisaruk  
(1861-1935 New York)**



# Berel Komisaruk and family c.1908 Grafskoy



# Meir Komisaruk and Family, Grafskoy,



23,24. MEYER and RIVA-ZELDA (nee Lev)  
Comisarow. Mariupol, 1912



25. Children of MEYER and RIVA-ZELDA  
L-R: SAM, LUBA (LILLIAN), AVROM, VELVEL (BILL).  
Novozlatopol, 1912

# Archival Sources



# Grafskoy 1858 Revision List, Komisaruk family, translation

RAGAS #000734. Appendix 1.

Translation of archival document. Archival source:  
Zaporozhye archive.

Revision census list of the Jewish colony of Grafskaya,  
Alexandrov district, Ekaterinoslav province. Compiled on May  
25, 1858.

Family number at 9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup> revision	Males	Age last revision	When departed	Present age	Females	Present age
---	-------	-------------------	---------------	-------------	---------	-------------

Belonged to the Rossiensky community:

-/18 Zelman Berelov KOMISARUK	52	died 1853			Zelman's wife Yekhved Leibova	60
His 1 <sup>st</sup> son Leiba	30			38	Leiba's wife Sora Rasya Hirsheva	41
Leiba's sons: 1. Hirsh Ber	5	died 1853			Leiba's daughter Mnukha	5
2. Sheftel	newborn			7		
Zelman's 2 <sup>nd</sup> son Pinkhos	18			26	Pinkhos's wife Khaya Meyerova	24
Pinkhos' sons: 1. Zelman				3		
2. Meyer				1/2		
Zelman's 3 <sup>rd</sup> son Wulf	12			20	Wulf's wife Feiga Movshova	18

# Rassein, Lithuania, 1847/48 Colonist candidates, Komisaruk

29.	Генерал-майор Коллежский	—	—	109	} Гессен	
	полковник Давыдов	—	—	109		
	Секретарь 1. Санта	—	—	27		
	2. Муромцев	—	—	18		} Впередию пропустить
	3. Васильев	—	—	9		
	Кавалер-мейстер Сера	—	—	30		} уместна
	Секретарь Циркулярное	—	—	2		
Евд.	Коллежский Перев.	—	—	31	} М. место Гессенская по Чугае	
	Полковник Бирман	—	—	6		
	Полковник Раушанов	—	—	57		
	Кавалер-мейстер Сера	—	—	55		
	Полковник Прохор	—	—	28		
				7	5	

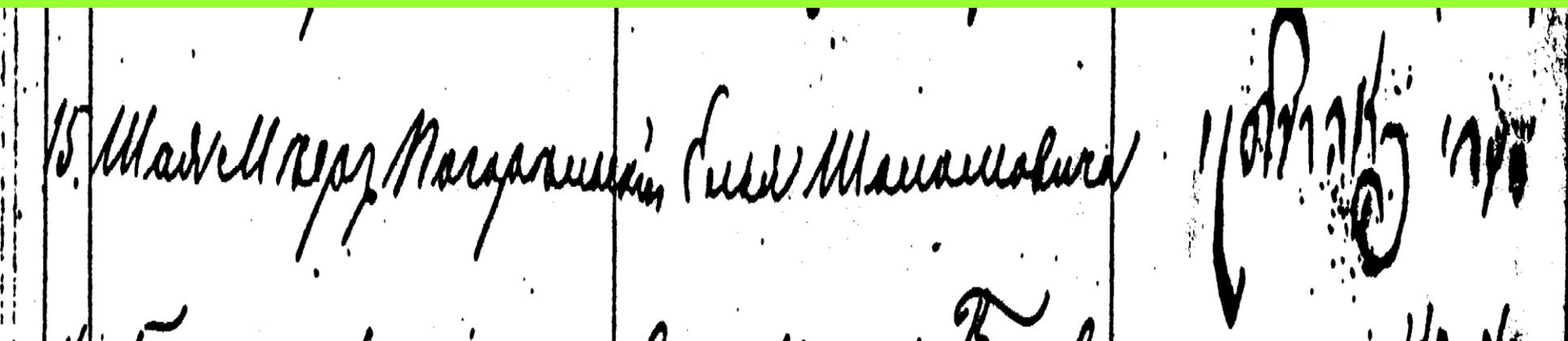
# Rassein, Lithuania, 1847/8 colonist candidates, Komisaruk. Translation

29. KOMISARUK Zelman, 49,  
his wife Iokhved, 49,  
his sons : Leyba, 27,  
Pinkhos, 18, was omitted in the revision list,  
Velvel, 9,

Leyba's wife Sora, 30,  
Leyba's son Girsh Ber, 2,  
Registered with this family is also Perel Elia, son of Khonel, 31, from Zemaiciu Naumiestis (Novomesto Raseiniai uyezd,  
his daughter Bliuma, 6,  
Salat Iudel, son of Zalman, 57, from Zemaiciu Naumiestis,  
his wife Leah Sora, 55,  
his daughter Lipa Rocha, 28.



Sladkovodnaya 1861 mayoral election.  
Signature of ggg-grandfather Saadiah-  
Meir Pogorelsky



15. Маврицъ Моргенштернъ (или Маврицъ) . 1861

The image shows a close-up of a handwritten document. The text is written in black ink on a light-colored background. The first part of the text is in Cyrillic: "15. Маврицъ Моргенштернъ (или Маврицъ)". To the right of this, there is a large, stylized signature in Hebrew characters. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to be "מוריץ מרגנשטרן". Below the main text, there are some faint, illegible markings and a small flourish.

Prenumeranten 1901

Novozlatopol

קאלאניע באנדאליאנע

(פיל יעקיינסקי)

הויפט-באנד ה' צחק זבי וויסמאן (ש"ס)  
הויפט-הויפט ה' פרידלע וואל אינדעוואן  
ה' הייזש ה' צחק הייזש  
ה' הויפט ה' פרידלע וויסמאן  
ה' הויפט ה' הייזש וואל פרידלע  
ענד-באנד ע"ה ה' (באד-הויפט)

# Hammagid Newspaper 1872 Zatishye donors

וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת הַמְּתַנְדָּבִים :

מקאלאניא זאטשיע, ומקאלאניע-חלעבא-דאריווקע, הסחחות מכני ישראל שעובדים את אדמתם ביעקאטרינאסלאווסקע-גוב עד נא קאלאניע-זאטשיע.

כרז, ר' מאיר ב"ר יונה לעווין 1 ר"כ, ז' סינא 70 קא', בנו הבחור יונה 10 קא', בנו ליסא 10 קא', בנו רחל 10 קא', דונער מאיר איזרילאווי 1 ר"כ, טוב' גיסיק פערילמאן 1 ר"כ, זוגתו חיי' סיפרא 50 קא', בנו בגלין 25 ק'. אחי' דובער 30 קא', דודי יצחק יהושע פערילמאן 50 קא', זקנתו חאסיע 25 קא', ש"ב חיים יהודא שטיינער 30 קא'. נדבות 1 ר"כ : זלמן משה חס-מאנאווסקע, דובער גילדנער, וואל שמבון קאזאקין, ראובן ספירא, יעקב חא-לימיאנסקע, זלמן רייטשטיין, יצחק ארלאווי, זעליג בראדסקע. — ר' ישראל סגל, ז' חיי' שרה, ש"י יאחווידזאסון, זוגתו שרה יאחווידסוהן, ליב כהנא, חש' ליב כהנא, אחיו משה כהנא, ניסן העליר, משה רייכיל, שלום יאחוויד-סאהן, ז' דינע חיי', משה קייטשווינקע, זוגתו רחל, בנו שמואל, בנו אלי', ושי' זילבער-בארד, אזריעל מלך ראזין, ז' אסתר מלכא, בנו חיי' רבקה, זוסמאן וואזיק, יהודא סגל, דובער דראזן, מענדיל שרץ, נבי טעמניק, ז' רחל לאה, חיים שאול טאמארקין, יעקב דובער מלכין, ראובן איטקין, זוגתו הינדע, ר' יוסף טרעקאווסקע, שמואל אברהם חאלימיאנסקע, מנחם מענדיל בראזאווי, שלום דובינוסקע, דובער הורעווין, זוגתו, אפרים קראז, שמואל שופר, זוגתו סיי' געטיל, אליעזר ראסקין, שרה ריסל א"ר שלמה קאפלן, ישראל בעלענט, ז' ציילא, בנו אליעזר ליפמאן, פייגא א"ר מרדכי שו"ב, הבחור זלמן נרפת, אהרן דוד העליר, ז' שיינא דינע, ליפמאן ראזיג-צערב, ליב טעמניק, ישראל קיימאן, חתנו שמעון, בנו שרה, נבי ליקער, יצחק ממיחילאינקע, הערש ליב מווילקאמיר, זוגתו ציילא רבקה מאניקשט, חש' נבי ליקער, פראדע א"ר הילל לעווי, ישראל נבי ראזימאווסקע, אחיו יהודא ליב, העשיל כ"ן, געטיל וואזיק, הבחור שאול שמואלניקע, משה ליקער, זוגתו ריסעל, ר' שמואל ליקער, יוסף

# Memoirs



*I will write my memoirs, as much as I remember and what my mother of blessed memory used to tell me.*

*I was born in 1898, ten days before Chanukah (# Nov 28, 1898). We were eight children to our parents, six sons and two daughters: Khaim, Shmilik, me Rokhel, Pinkhas, Velvel, Yokhved, Zalmen and Leibl. We lived in a Jewish colony (Trudolubovka). There were seventeen colonies in Yekaterinoslav Gubernia (# government).*

*Mother told us that her grandfather and grandmother used to live in Kovno. In those times they used to snatch Jewish children to take them for soldiers. Many children were converted. The great-grandfather and great-grandmother took the children and came with them to the Ukraine. They built government houses for them. They gave them land to work. The land belonged to the government; they weren't allowed to sell it nor were they able to acquire more land. In the Kolonya they chose for an elder one who the regime was interested in. He used to take taxes and send them to the regime. There was a Shule. The Jews built a store where all the householders kept their produce for the next year. There was a Feldsher (# an unqualified medical orderly). We had two shops. Two brothers made soap. There was a vineyard. When there was a grape harvest we children went into the vineyard and we found especially large grapes*

# Pogrom in Trudoliubovka, 1918

*All the men were called to an assembly, actually in Moshe Nol's yard. They drove everyone inside and sealed them in.*

*Mama cried out such that the heaven would split. I thought that perhaps they will surely beat them, wanting to find out something. Maybe they were killed. Not even that news, mercifully, came. And I dragged and begged Mama she should go. He was ready to shoot. There in the third house were bandits. They were still waiting for us to be brought to them. When we were back in the house Mama tore out her hair from her head, banged her head on the wall and begged her father, the Tsaddik (# Saint) that he should take immediately her children to him alive.*

*We all went quickly to the assembly. From all the houses came the same chant. All were hurrying to the assembly. There was a shout: "They have all been burnt!" a great heap of black ashes. We screamed so much with dismay. Then came from Heitzur maidservants who worked in the Kolonya: "See what the bandits have done to the Jews!"*

*We were left naked and barefoot. The first night we hid in the cemetery with the children wrapped in rags.*

# Uninhabited Trudoliubovka; aerial photo 1943

Engels/Trudolubiovka



# Trudoliubovka Mass Grave



Братская могила в колонии „Трудолюбовке“, Екатеринославской губ. Здесь погребено 175 евреев-колонистов, заживо сожженных махновцами в 1919 г.

Holocaust



**YAD VASHEM**

**“DAF ED” [testimonial form]**

**[number] 166835**

**Surname: Komisaruk**

**Personal name: Shloyme-Rubin**

**Gender: Male**

**Marital state: married**

**Birthplace: Ukraine, Zaporozhe Oblast, Jewish colony Grafskaya**

**Father: Shepa**

**Place of residence: Ukraine, Zaporozhe Oblast, Jewish colony  
Zelenopolye**

**Place of residence during the war: then - Jewish colony  
Zelenopolye.**

**Occupation: farmer**

**Date of death: October 1941**

**Place and circumstance of death: Perished in the Jewish colony  
Zelenopolye, Zaporozhe Oblast in the mass execution [ shooting]  
of Jews.**

**Details of the declarer: Komisaruk, Daniil Semenovitch**

**Relationship to the victim: son**

# Site of Zelenopol massacre behind synagogue



# Holocaust Memorial, Mass Grave, Berdyansk



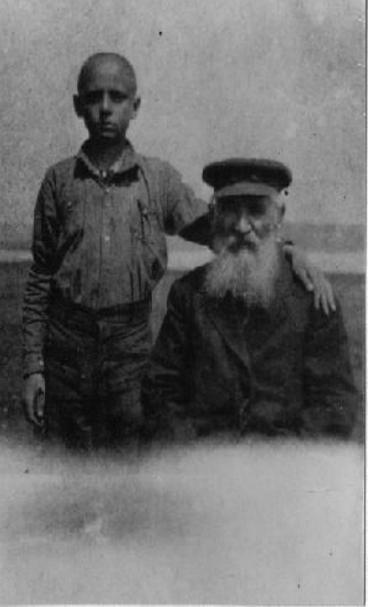
# Holocaust Memorial, Mass Grave, Novozlatopol



# Diorama of Novozlatopol massacre



# Various Photos



# Parting at Rozovka station 1913



Colonies today:  
Mel Comisarow's  
tours in  
1999, 2002

# Grafskoy synagogue, 1999, used as club



view of Grafskoy shul looking northeast. The sign 1952 dates from the 1952 renovation of the shul as a community center.

# Novozlatopol house 1999



# Novodarovka synagogue 1999



# Sladkovodnaya cemetery 1999



# Nazarevich tombstone from 1860's



# Krasnoselka synagogue used as store





# Internet Site

[www.kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/  
Colonies\\_of\\_Ukraine/](http://www.kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Colonies_of_Ukraine/)

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